card 1643

TWO INTERCEPTED LETTERS

From Sr WILLIAM BRERETON to the Earle of ESSEX, and M. PYM; concerning the Rebells affaires in the NORTH.

The Originalls whereof were sent by an Expresse to the Earle of ESSEX, according to His MAJESTIES direction, *this 8. of July*, 1643.

Printed Verbatim according to the Originalls,

BY

LEONARD LICHFIELD, Printer *to the Vniversity*. 1643.

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to the Earle of ESSEX, and MPYM,
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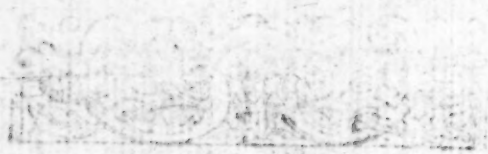

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BY

LEONARD LICHFIELD, Printer
to the Vniversity, 1643.

May it please your Excellence.

I have received this day a Letter from Captain *Duckenfield*, and another from Captain *Booth*, importing that my Lord *Fairfax* and the *Lancashire* Forces (being joyned and encountring with the Lord *Newcastle*) were routed and pursued to *Bradford*, which Towne also was taken by the *Earle* of *Newcastles* Forces, and *Leedes* besieged, whereby the Earle of *Newcastle* is possessed of all *Yorkshire*, except *Hull* and *Leedes*.

Halifax is deserted by Our men, & the Earles Forces possessed thereof.

The *Lancashire* Forces being also defeated (as I am informed) there remaines very few, except those small forces We have, (which are more then sufficiently matched

with the Lord *Capell*) to make oppoſition and reſiſtance, unleſſe your Excellence in your Wiſdom think fit ſome wayes to provide for the prevention of ſo great a danger, as may enſue upon gathering and increaſing of his Forces, by ſubduing and ſpoyling the Country.

I hope your Excellence will excuſe and pardon what was intended for the aſſiſtance of my Lord *Grey*, being neceſſarily employed for the defence of theſe parts. But if your Lordſhip Command otherwiſe, I ſhall account it a part of my duty to obey your Excellency, to whom I will alwayes profeſſe to remaine.

Stafford, July. 4. 1643.

Your Excellences moſt humble ſervant
WILL: BRERETON.

My Lord *Fairfax* and his Son it is ſaid are in *Leedes*, where I heare they are diſtreſſed.

Superſcribed,
For his Excellence the Earle of *Eſſex*, theſe humbly preſent
Speed.

Sir,

I Can doe no leſſe then account it a part of my duty to Communicate unto you what I received yeſternight from Captain *Duckenfield*, and others, touching the bad ſucceſſe of the Lord *Fairfax*, and the *Lancaſhire* men in their encounter with the *Earle* of *Newcaſtles* Forces, being routed and purſued to *Bradford*, which Towne was by the Enemies Granadoes ſet on fire and taken: the report whereof ſtruck ſuch a Terror into the *Halifax* men, as that thereupon they deſerted the Town, whereby the *Earle* of *Newcaſtles* Forces are become poſſeſſed of all that great County of

Yorkshire, except *Hull* and *Leedes*, whither the Lord *Fairfax*, and Sir *Thomas Fairfax* are escaped, and wherein it is said they are besieged and distressed. It is not to be expected that there can be prevention given to the progresse, advance, and encrease of this Army, unlesse some considerable force can be sent downe to joyne with the Country, and to assist and make head, there being no more in these parts to resist, but only those small forces we have, which are sufficiently tasked with my Lord *Capells* Forces.

Me thinkes therefore it were high time that you should have sent before this to have entreated the assistance of the *Scots*, whereby prevention might have been given to the losse of many 1000 mens lives, and many 1000 pounds worth of Treasure and Goods, whereof the Enemy is become possessed, & will be exceedingly strengthned, if you doe not hasten to call them in to our Assistance. And if this be not done it is feared that the whole Kingdom may be endangered

dangered, and certainly all the Northern parts Ruin'd and ſpoyl'd.

I beſeech the Lord direct you herein to ſuch Reſolution as may be moſt for his own glory, and the reſcuing of his people out of the hands of their oppreſſors, ſo prayeth

Your moſt faithfull friend and Servant

STAFFORD, *July* 5. 1643.

Superſcribed,
For the much honoured
M. P Y M
theſe Speed Speed.